

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2014 SPRING.....ISSUE #1/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



Hoggatt School was hoisted up onto a trailer and placed on a new foundation in December 2013.

**Ames Historical Society Board:**  
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The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Director Casie Vance	
Staff Alex Fejfar, Margaret Vance	
	Hannah Frederick
Curator Dennis Wendell	
Collections Manager Sarah Carlson	
Newsletter Editor Kathy Svec	

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in local and state history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

**Headqtrs:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010  
Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm  
**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010  
**Phone:** 515-232-2148  
**E-mail:** info@ameshistory.org  
**Website:** www.AmesHistory.org  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 20<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open April 1 through October 31.

**Please Join Us for the Annual Meeting of the Membership  
Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 10am  
at the Ames History Center, 416 Douglas, Ames**



**Short business meeting & overview of 2013  
followed by a program, light refreshments  
& exhibit browsing.**



With the exciting re-location of our schoolhouse museum, Hoggatt School, we want to show members video footage and pictures of this amazing feat and tell again the lively story of the school's namesake, Lucian Quincy Hoggatt (1815-96).

## Who Is That Hoggatt Guy, Anyway?

program by Kathy Svec, Society Co-President

*Excerpted from a story in the Ames Tribune, 9-29-1928*

Of all the names closely associated with the early development of Ames, few rank ahead of Col. L. Q. Hoggatt. More than that, he was a deciding influence on numerous occasions in county politics. Colonel Hoggatt hailed from Indiana and long before the town of Ames was proposed, he had settled on a farm west of Grand Avenue and extending from Lincoln Way north for a quarter of a mile.

He was a veteran of the Mexican war and had served in the Indiana legislature prior to his migration to Iowa. He held many public offices during this time and when not in office, was usually campaigning for some cause in his forceful way. He served as marshal in Ames during its early stages and many questionable ordinances made his existence a weary one.

In 1861 Colonel Hoggatt was elected sheriff of Story County. During this first term, he made plans to enlist for service in the Civil War, but his fighting career was cut short in a tragic manner when he lost his leg in a threshing machine on the eve of his expected departure for the battlefield. He was re-elected sheriff in 1863 and from that time on he remained active in politics though not always supporting the same party.

In 1878, the Greenback Party fused with the Democrats and elected Hoggatt their candidate from the ninth district. It is told that Colonel Hoggatt drove from town to town in the district in his famous one-horse buckboard, delivering fiery speeches. He was the object of much ridicule from the press for the rash statements which he included in his argument, yet he succeeded in gaining the candidacy. When it came to the polls, the matter was not as favorable; the old 9th district was Republican and elected Governor Carpenter. But Hoggatt was the only Story County man to get a nomination and he conducted a magnificent campaign while it lasted.

Among other things which he did in belittling the arguments of his oratorical opponent in a public debate was driving pins into his cork leg while the other fellow was talking. This distraction was amusing to Hoggatt who believed the audience would thus fail to hear all of the dangerous counter statements.

In county matters, the old colonel would always line up for Ames, regardless of what was under discussion. [Note: no known picture of L.Q. exists.]

# Announcing the 2014 Lecture Series!

All lectures will be at Ames City Auditorium, 520 Sixth Street, Ames, Iowa. Open to the public.  
A \$3 freewill donation is requested at the door to assist with auditorium rental.

## Tue., March 25, 7pm

by Dr. Wesley Buchele, professor emeritus, Iowa State University

### Innovation & Invention: Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State



When Iowa State was established as an agriculture college, the search for better farming methods began in earnest. Recent notable inventions in I.S.U.'s Agricultural Engineering Department were conceived by Dr. Wesley Buchele. His large round baler and the rotary threshing and separation cylinder found in all modern grain combines are used around the world. The inventor himself will talk about the conception and development of these and other useful machines, the practical problems he and his students tackled and the unique solutions that emerged.

## Tue., April 22, 7pm

[note corrected date]

By Teresa "TJ" Larson, "Shared Stories" program coordinator & Jeff Grummer of B&G Productions

### Collegiate Manufacturing: Stitched Into Time



In 2012, a small group of Ames Historical Society supporters saw the debut of "Stitched Into Time: Remembering Collegiate Manufacturing Company," a film about the sportswear and college accessory company that for decades had its headquarters on Douglas Avenue (near the current location of the Ames History Center). Word spread that the film was not-to-be missed, so it is being presented during the lecture series so others may see it. Teresa and Jeff, co-producers, will introduce the film, talk about its production challenges and successes and share some of the stories that were left "on the cutting room floor."

## Tue., May 20, 7pm

By Jeff Stein, author, historian and educator

### From the Battlefront to the Homefront: Iowa Broadcasters Go To War



The bravery of American military members has been well documented, often due to the unique reporting done by Iowa-based broadcasters on the scene. This presentation includes segments from a documentary by the same name. It features vintage broadcasts and interviews with the journalists who covered conflicts from World War II to the first Gulf War, a 50-year span. Stein, an Iowa broadcast historian and the documentary's producer, will talk about the challenges reporters faced doing their jobs: relaying information to a waiting audience and at times, reassuring them of the safety of Iowans serving thousands of miles away. Ames' own Jack Shelley will be prominently featured.

Program funded by Humanities Iowa, a private, non-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in part by a grant from the Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs' Community Cultural Grant program.

## Tue., June 24, 7pm

By Douglas Biggs, Associate Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney

### Ames and the College from 1890-1900: A Transformative Decade



In 1890 the city of Ames had 1,276 citizens, no municipal electrical, water or sewage service and a part time town marshal. Iowa Agricultural College lay two miles west and was an isolated world unto itself. By 1900, Ames had 2,422 citizens, a publicly owned electric plant, state-of-the-art water and sewer systems and a new Chicago & North Western railroad depot. This growth was the work of many people, but it was fueled largely by the vision of President William Beardshear of IAC, with the Ames & College Railway, serving as the vehicle for these enhancements. Biggs will talk about the struggles and the triumphs of this transformative decade and the people who made it possible.

**Mark your calendars and bring your friends!**

# Society News

## Chamber Kicks Off Ames Sesquicentennial Celebration!



The Ames Chamber of Commerce dedicated their annual meeting on Jan. 30 to the Ames Sesquicentennial, a gala event that kicked off the year-long celebration in fine style!

The reception, dinner and program all had historic touches. Tapping the Society's resources, there were photo enlargements of vintage pictures throughout the



reception area and artifact displays (below) from our collection. A small music ensemble was playing under a tent reminiscent of a Chautauqua gathering (left) and

the dinner borrowed its menu from a Christmas dinner served at the Sheldon-Munn Hotel in 1919. Guests each had a copy of that festive 95-year-old menu on their printed program. During the formal remarks, Society Executive Director, Casie Vance, gave a capsule summary history of Ames' founding.

The event was open to the public for the first time, and a portion of the proceeds will support Sesquicentennial projects. The Society's staff was very pleased to work with the Chamber in making the event memorable!

The Sesquicentennial website is [www.Ames150.com](http://www.Ames150.com). Events will be continually added to the calendar. Currently listed are:

- **Ames 150 on the 4<sup>th</sup>**, July 3-5: Three days of activities surrounding Independence Day.
- **Dinkey Day**, September 26: in Campustown in conjunction with ISU's Family Weekend.
- **Platting Day**, December 17: marking the day 150 years ago when the town was laid out.
- **More to Come – keep checking!**



Sheldon-Munn Hotel display

## A Correction is in Order

In the last newsletter, the cover story of recollections about life in Ames during the World War II era was misattributed. The correct author of those charming stories is Donald H. McNeil.



The newsletter editor sincerely apologizes for the error! More of Don's tales are on the Society's website under "Your Stories".

## Use This Tax Calculator

Donations made directly to the Society's Endowment Fund at the Story County Community Foundation can reap surprising benefits for both the donor and the Society.

Explore the facts using the Endow Iowa "tax calculator" at [www.iowacommunityfoundations.org/resources.aspx](http://www.iowacommunityfoundations.org/resources.aspx). A donor can figure the real "cost" of a donation.



For example, a \$10,000 donation for a person in the 12% tax bracket is eligible for an Endow Iowa Tax Credit of \$2,500 and a charitable-giving federal tax deduction of \$1,200. So, the true "cost" of that \$10,000 gift is \$6,300.

The calculator automatically assumes an 8.5% rate of return and a 4.5% annual payout. After 10 years, that \$10,000 grows to \$14,267, paying out \$5,799 to the organization. After 50 years it grows to \$59,109, paying out \$66,282 to the organization!

To be eligible for the Iowa tax credit, donations must be made directly to the AHS Endowment at the Story County Community Foundation, 416 Douglas, Suite 202, Ames, IA 50010.

In addition to cash donations, don't forget that AHS can also receive:

- Tangible assets such as cash, corn in a bin or real estate property
- Transfers of appreciated stock
- Memorial gifts in honor of a loved one or community member
- Bequests from your estate
- Gifts resulting from being a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy

We are **so grateful** to all those who responded to our 2013 end-of-the year-appeal; it yielded \$27,010! Unless otherwise designated, the donations support our day-to-day expenses in serving the community.

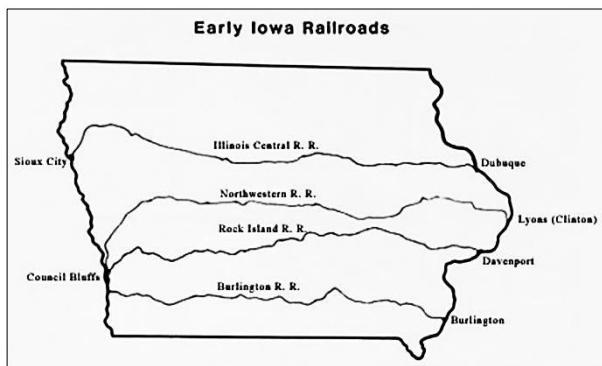
## Local Stories

### The Founding of Our Town: How the City of Ames Came to Be

The following capsule history of the founding of Ames was assembled and delivered by Casie Vance, Society Executive Director at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on January 30.

Since this is the kick off for the sesquicentennial celebration this year, I would like to give a little background about what we are celebrating and how the city of Ames, Iowa came to be.

As you all know, 150 years ago, the country was torn apart in Civil War. President Lincoln had many plans to help reunite the country after the war, one of which was the creation of a transcontinental railroad system. This was helped along by five Pacific Railroad Acts between 1862 and 1866. The final leg of the first transcontinental railroad, stretching from Council Bluffs, Iowa to Oakland, California, was completed in 1869.



The route through Ames was one of several railroads in Iowa that connected Council Bluffs to the eastern part of the country.

The Iowa Agricultural College was founded in 1858 by the Iowa State legislature. Story County was chosen as the site for the future school in the summer of 1859 and 648 acres of land was purchased for \$5,379. In 1861, the first building on the new campus, the Farm House (above), was completed. Classes began on October 21, 1868 and the first class of 26 men and women graduated in 1872. The campus area was annexed by Ames in 1893.



In 1863, John Insley Blair and Massachusetts congressman Oakes Ames met in Chicago and traveled westward into Iowa as far as the railroad line went, which at that time was Marshalltown. They then

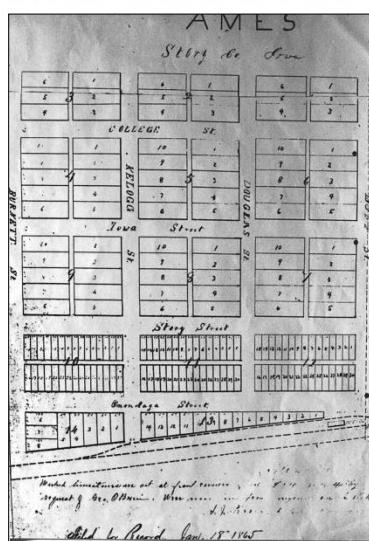
traveled by stagecoach further west, making stops in Nevada and possibly even resting at the Farm House.

Blair was the chief engineer for the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad, in which Mr. Ames held stock. The purpose of this trip was to identify locations for bridges and depots and the route of the railroad as it moved west toward Council Bluffs. During this trip, Blair kept careful notes and he selected the marshy land between the Skunk River and Squaw Creek as a future depot location. This location was chosen partially because of plans for the college nearby.

The next year, in November of 1864, Blair was deeded land from a local resident, Cynthia Duff. Duff and her husband Alexander had purchased the land in August of that year from other early settlers, including Isaac Black and Lucian Hoggatt, neither of whom would sell directly to the railroad.

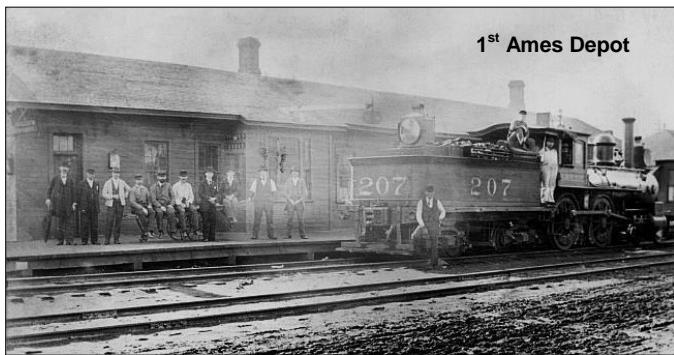
Prior to that, the land had been transferred to the county by the federal government because it was found to be "unusable" swamp land. According to the history book published by the Ames Centennial Committee 50 years ago, "no words can over-emphasize the condition of the wet, boggy, marshy quagmire that early settlers found in the area when Ames was founded."

On December 17, 1864, Charles Irish, one of Blair's engineers, platted a town near the site of a depot that was soon to be constructed.



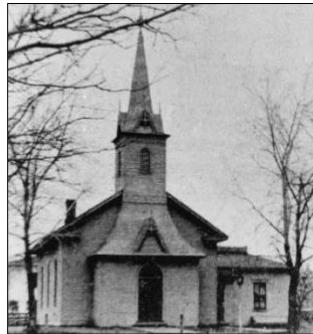
That original town consisted of twelve blocks, bordered by Duff Avenue at the east, the railroad at the south, Burnett Avenue at the west, and 8th Street at the north. Blair, who had named many towns across Iowa, including Scranton, Ogden, Belle Plaine, Blairstown, and Blairsburg, named our town after his friend, Oakes Ames.

After plating Ames, Blair continued laying track, and his Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad was the first to reach Council Bluffs, completing track in 1867.



The Ames depot, completed in 1865, was the first building in town and also housed the first business, a grocery store run by station agent and postmaster, H.F. Kingsbury. The first home was built in 1865 by Noah and Matilda Webster, on the corner where Adams Funeral Home is now located, across from the library.

In 1866, at the urging of Cynthia Duff, Blair deeded land to the Church Society of the First Congregational Church, which had been meeting in the depot. The church building was completed that year for \$1,800 and stood at its present location at 6th and Kellogg. Although Oakes Ames never set foot in the city of Ames, he did donate a bell to this first church.



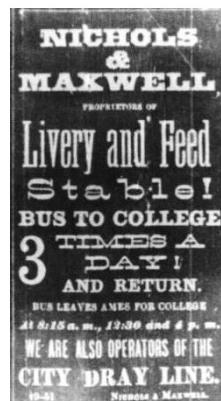
Main Street, then called Onondaga Street after Cynthia Duff's home county in New York, was extremely muddy. At one time, the mud was so deep that the sidewalks would sink completely out of sight, and extra wood had to be laid beneath them to make them usable. Duck and frog ponds were prevalent, especially near the depot.

Even so, it didn't take long for Onondaga Street to become bustling with businesses.



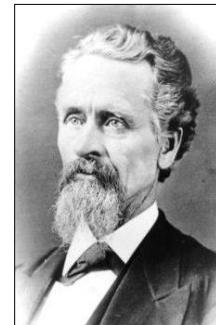
Kingsbury's grocery store soon moved out of the depot and into a building on the corner of Onondaga and Duff. A drugstore was built on the corner of Onondaga and

Douglas. A hardware store was built in 1866. The first bank was started in 1869.



Arrivals to Iowa Agricultural College by train in the late 1860s prompted the building of hotels and the Nichols and Maxwell Livery that offered transportation to the college from Onondaga. The first newspaper, the Ames Intelligencer, was started in 1869. For a while, Ames school children attended Hoggatt country school built by early settlers. In 1868, a two-story school was built.

The settlement of Ames was incorporated as a village in 1870, with a population of 636. At this time, William West (right) was chosen as the first mayor. By 1876, the city boasted over 50 businesses, including multiple restaurants, general stores, dress makers, blacksmiths, jewelry stores, and doctors.



What we're celebrating in 2014 is not the incorporation of Ames, which didn't happen until 1870 – but its platting. Before Blair instructed his engineer to plat the town, there was barely any settlement here. A few families lived nearby, including the Hoggatts, Duffs, and Blacks, but our city really began with Blair's instructions to create it in December of 1864.

Of course, that was just the beginning!

In 2014, we will be celebrating the people, events, development, organizations, businesses and decisions that were made and created in the 150 years since that platting, while also looking ahead to the next 150 years.

A statement in the history of Ames written to celebrate the country's centennial in 1876, stated, "The present population of Ames...is being constantly augmented by the influx of new settlers, who are attracted to this point by its many superior...advantages."

I would argue that this statement still applies today!

Watch for the Society's Sesquicentennial Exhibit:

#### **DEFINING AMES:**

**150 People, Places & Events, 1864-2014**

on view August 2 through October 25, 2014

at the Octagon Center for the Arts,

427 Douglas, Ames

Gallery talks are planned

during the run of the exhibit.

# Headquarters Happenings – Around 416 Douglas

## Martin Foundation Visits



Members of the Martin Foundation and Martin family visited the Ames History Center on December 7 to view an exhibit honoring the Martin family. Featured are family heirlooms donated by Pauline on behalf

of the Martin family: five 19<sup>th</sup> century portraits, glass punch set, and WWI memorabilia. Family founders, Archie and Nancy Martin were the first African-Americans in Ames and were gentle, caring people who provided rooms for African-American students attending Iowa State College in the 1930s and 1940s. Seated in front are: Mary Martin Carr and Pauline Martin (secretary). Standing in back are: Constance Post (past president), Kim Carr-Irvin (president), and Thelma Harding (vice-president/treasurer)

In a note to Curator Dennis Wendell, Constance said, "Thanks for setting up the display of Martin Family memorabilia for the Martin Foundation Board. It was a pleasure to see the collection and I also enjoyed the guided tour you gave Thelma and me of the facility."

## Square Dancing Legacy

Ames Crosstrailers memorabilia was donated to the Ames Historical Society by past-president Melvin Popelka (left). Curator Dennis Wendell (right) accepts the collection. The organization was active from 1958-1996 in the promotion and enjoyment of square dancing, and included members from surrounding

communities as well as students from Iowa State University.

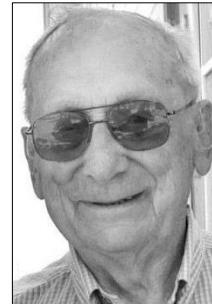


The scrapbook that contains photos, programs, rosters and publicity is accompanied by a men's vest and a banner designed by Connie (Martin) Vaclav. Donations such as this preserve the legacy of organizations that have made Ames a special community - and they enrich our collection of records from similar community organizations.

## "Wild Bill" Kunerth

If Society members remember Bill Kunerth who died last December, do you think of him as a "burr under the saddle" or the "conscience" of Iowa State and Ames? One thing is certain: Kunerth (known as "Wild Bill") kept the pot stirred during the 45 years he and wife Willie lived in Ames - and that was only his journalistic side!

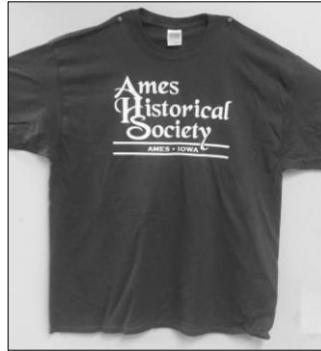
If members have special memories of Bill, they may be shared with Willie and the family at a "Remembering" on Wed., April 16, 3-4 p.m. at the Cardinal Room, Memorial Union, Iowa State. If you cannot make it, but have something you'd like to share, send your comments to Tom Emmerson, 630 Ridgewood Ave., Ames, IA 50010 or email them to emmerson@iastate.edu.



Kunerth's columns, titled "The Old Fogey" appeared periodically in the Ames Tribune. Copies were donated to the Society by Bill and the family last year.

## Museum Shop

Many unique items!



**NEW** - Society t-shirts, red, \$15

**DVD:** *Stitched Into Time: Remembering Collegiate Manufacturing Company*

"Song of Ames" magnets; Children's activity books

All of Farwell Brown's books on Ames

Vintage handkerchiefs and handkerchief doll kits

Picture postcards of historic images

Out of print books on local history

Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm or by appointment, 515-232-2148

# Society News

## Bring John Blair Home!

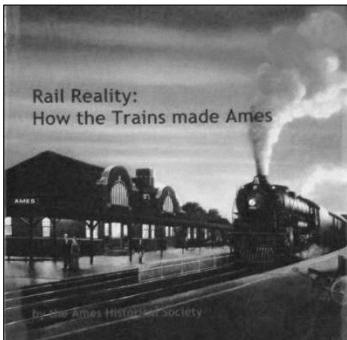


Years ago, Ames Historian Farwell Brown, tracked down and brought to Ames a large, elegantly framed portrait of Ames' founder, railroadman John Blair. It is one of only five in existence and was painted in 1880. The portrait hung in the Ames Public Library until 2012 when it was officially transferred to the Society. Blair was crated (above) and taken to Minneapolis for restoration and will hopefully return in time for the Ames Sesquicentennial celebration. We are seeking donations to cover the \$7,300 cost. Will you help **Bring John Home?**

## Hoggatt School Plantings

In the spring, landscaping appropriate to a prairie country school will be installed around Hoggatt School in its new location near Meeker School. Members who would like to help with the project may contact Sharon Wirth at 515.233.2415 or [sharonwirth@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonwirth@yahoo.com).

## Rail Reality, The Book



Material gathered for the 2012 exhibit, *Rail Reality: How the Trains Made Ames*, has been collected into book form by Peggy Baer and Kathy Svec using the online publisher, Blurb. It is 12x12" and is full-color. Copies for reference will be available at Ames

Public Library, ISU Library and the Ames History Center. Because of the small run, individual copies are expensive, but those interested in purchase information may contact Peggy at [pbaer@mchsi.com](mailto:pbaer@mchsi.com).

## Exhibits Listing Online at CVB

The Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau website now has a listing of exhibits and displays that can be seen in many locations around Ames – including the ones at the Ames History Center. Go to: [www.visitames.com](http://www.visitames.com) >See & Do >Ongoing Exhibits.

Upcoming Ames Historical Society events can also be found on our own website: [www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org).

## Free Photo Workshop!



A free workshop, [Introduction to Photo Preservation](#) will be offered at 7pm, Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Ames History Center, 416 Douglas, Ames. It will

be taught by Society Collections Manager, Sarah Carlson. She will cover:

- Differences between types of photos and preservation needs
- How to store and handle photos
- Digital photo files, backups, and scanning
- Examples from Ames Historical Society's collection

The workshop is free and open to the public, but please register in advance by email or phone at 515-232-2148 or [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).

## "Members After Hours" April 17!

Mark your calendars for Members After Hours on Thursday, April 17, 7pm at the History Center. This is a special, free members only event that will include tours of the archives, refreshments and a more in-depth look at current exhibits.

## Our Wish List

Just in case our members have usable items that would fill a need at the Ames History Center – or would be willing to help with various projects – we are including our **Wish List**!

- Used 8mm tape cassette player or recorder in working condition
- Compact-VHS to VHS converter
- Used desktop computers running Windows 7
- Humidifier with built-in monitors and automatic shut-off
- Newer upright vacuum
- Funding for an internship position that would provide a student with hands-on learning in a museum setting
- Funding for professional framing for five large crayon portraits of the Martin Family

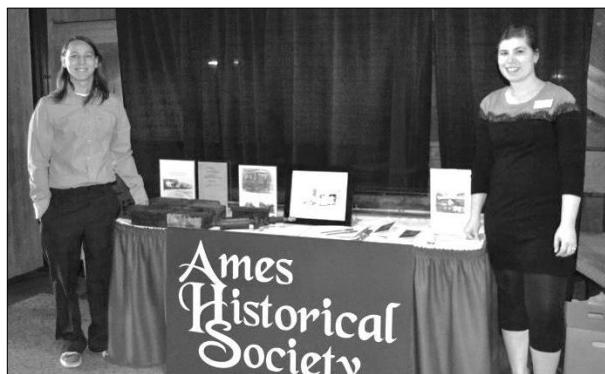


Contact us at 515.232.2148 or [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org) if you can help!

**Ames Historical Society**  
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## Return Service Requested



AHS at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Chamber Annual Meeting and kick-off event for the Sesquicentennial: top and lower left - Society staffers, Alex Fejfar and Casie Vance host an info table; lower right – Casie delivering capsule history during the program.



"Like" us on Facebook and follow us there:  
[www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety)

### Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**

### Yes! I'd like to help bring John home!

I would like to help with the restoration of the John Blair portrait and enclose a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:**  
**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**